

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2008

SWAC Members

Mark Glazer, Chair	Paula Jenson	Craig Simoneau
Steve Findley	Ed Lee	Steve Sprague
David Frank	Lee Levine	Ed Violette
Mimi Guernica	Sean McCarty	
Odell Hall	Marcia Marks	

Absent: L. Alexander and M. Harrington

County Staff

Guests

Peter Karasik, DSWS
Angela Jordan, DSWS

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 9:00 a.m. on November 15, 2008, at the Shady Grove Recycling Center in Derwood.

The Chair welcomed everyone at the meeting, and introductions were made.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the October 7, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

Subcommittee/ Reports – The Beauty Spots ad hoc committee met on Thursday, November 13, 2008 to explore the pros and cons of closing the beauty spots in Damascus and Poolesville. The initiation of a cost-effective bulk pick up service was discussed, as well as the threat of increased illegal dumping.

MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC

A presentation was made by Mr. Peter Karasik of DSWS on the Shady Grove Transfer Station and Recycling Center. He gave an overview of the layout of the Transfer Station, the machinery and operations of the Recycling Center, and what material Montgomery County accepts for recycling.

- The Shady Grove Transfer Station is a waste collection facility used by local residents and haulers bringing trash, recyclables, and yard trim. The facility operates with the help of two contractors. Covanta Energy, a waste disposal and

energy generation organization, oversees the trash operation. Maryland Environmental Service (MES), a Maryland agency that recycles and markets recovered materials, manages our recycling and composting operation. The Transfer Station houses different depots for yard waste, scrap metal, electronics recycling, mixed paper, hazardous waste, and another one for glass, aluminum cans, and plastic.

- Mr. Karasik discussed the machinery that is involved with the operation of sorting approximately 100 tons of recyclable material daily. Mr. Karasik mentioned some integral pieces of equipment. One was the trommel, a steel frame with a spinning screen, which is used to recover paper, broken glass, etc. Another was the use of an electromagnet used to recover metals. A secondary magnet removes any metal recyclables, such as cans, that are missed by the electromagnet. A baler, which compresses plastic, steel, and aluminum into blocks, is used to “package” recyclables for the purchase by vendors. Each bale consists of approximately 1000-2000 lbs of recyclable matter. On average, 30-40 bales are produced each day.
- Recyclables that are accepted by Montgomery County are sold to various vendors by MES. There is a market for mixed paper, food/beverage glass, scrap metal, aluminum and non-ferrous metal cans, as well as plastic bottles, tubs and lids. The Recycling Center has been operating in the black for at least four years. With the slowing economy, profits have fallen significantly, but not enough to eliminate the positive numbers the entire solid waste operation generates.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Chair read a statement submitted by Ms. Harrington regarding the leadership of SWAC, and its future. A dialogue was opened with the entire committee. Mr. Sprague stated that if interest was raised regarding assisting the leadership of SWAC, then she should be allowed to participate. Ms. Jordan stated that SWAC cannot have a co-Vice Chair, but an alternative position could be created for a committee member to serve another capacity. The committee decided to revisit this matter in the future.
- Interviews will take place next month to fill the vacancies on the committee. A letter to the County Executive will be drafted to recommend those who will be selected by the nominating committee.
- A motion was made (Guernica) and seconded (Frank) to add Ms. Harrington to the election ballot.
- The 2009 elections were held. Incumbent Mark Glazer and write-in candidate Marcia Harrington ran for Chair. Incumbent David Frank and write-in candidate Marcia Harrington ran for Vice Chair. With a vote of 9 to 1 for Mark Glazer, and a vote of 8 to 3 for David Frank, both incumbents were re-elected for Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

- Ms. Marks was concerned about the use of plastic water bottles at County meetings, including SWAC, and thought everyone should be responsible for their own beverages. A motion was made (Sprague) and seconded (Frank) to ban plastic water bottles from all SWAC meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m. A tour of the Transfer Station commenced immediately.

ACRONYMS

MES	Maryland Environmental Service
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE														
2007 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Alexander, Leslie									X	X	X			
Faul-Zeitler, Bobbie		X	X		X	X			X	X	X		-1	
Frank, David			X		X	X			X	X	X		-1	
Glazer, Mark		X	X			X			X	X	X		-1	
Guernica, Mimi									X	X			-1	
Hall, Odell		X			X	X			X	X			-2	
Harrington, Marcia									X	X	X			
Levine, Lee		X	X			X			X		X		-2	
Marks, Marcia									X	X	X			
Simoneau, Craig		X	X		X	X			X	X	X			

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE														
2008 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Abralind, Jessica		X	X	X	X	X							-1	
Alexander, Leslie		X	X		X	X				X			-3	
Findley, Steve			X	X	X	X				X	X			
Frank, David	X	X	X	X		X				X	X		-1	
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Guernica, Mimi	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Hall, Odell	X		X		X	X				X	X		-2	
Harrington, Marcia	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			-1	
Jenson, Paula		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Lee, Ed		X	X	X	X	X					X		-1	
Levine, Lee	X	X	X			X				X	X		-2	
Marks, Marcia	X	X			X	X				X	X		-2	
McCarty, Sean	X	X		X	X						X		-3	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X	X	X	X					X	X		-1	
Sprague, Steve		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Violette, Ed				X	X	X				X	X			